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25 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : The Brooks Bill --

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This memorandum serves as a status report of conversations being held within the Agency on the subject of the Brooks Bill,

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The Brooks Bill gives to the Administrator, GSA, Government-wide responsibility for "control" of ADP equipment procurement action. It also pins responsibility on the Civil Service Commission to accelerate Government-wide training and education programs in ADP and it fixes on the National Bureau of Standards responsibility for providing technical advice to Government agencies on software and hardware problems.

I attended a meeting at the BOB last Friday at which Elmer Staats spoke. He is aware that most Government agencies are alarmed by the suggested powers which the Bill gives to the GSA Administrator. He felt, however, that agencies are "needlessly alarmed" and that the intent of the Bill is not to make the Administrator an ADP czar in Government.

I have also obtained copies for John Warner of the letters prepared by NSA and the Department of Defense to Mr. Dawson of the Committee on Government Operations in which DOD recommends that an exemption clause be added to the Bill to cover "security, military, and cryptologic uses." After holding meetings with DD/P and DD/I, I conclude that the Agency should take a strong stand to obtain an exemption that would safeguard our national security interests under the DCI's responsibility to "protect sources and methods." John Warner and I are, therefore, coordinating a draft letter to the Committee on Government Operations that would so state the Agency's attitude. If this fails, our back-up position would be to attempt to achieve a private understanding between the Director and the Administrator, GSA.

The pressure on the Hill and at the BOB is intense to leave the wording of the Bill as is. BOB has already advised the Committee on Government Operations that it favors the Bill as it stands.

During my military tour at the Pentagon I learned that Fubini and Secretary Vance have interested themselves personally in this one and are doing what they can to make their views known to the Committee on Government Operations even though BOB is not in agreement.

The letter which is currently in preparation in John Warner's office will be coordinated among all Directorates before it goes out, probably the early part of next week.

JOSEPH BECKER
Assistant Director
Computer Services

Attachment:

Letter from Vance to Chairman, Committee on
Government Operations stating DOD position

cc: John Warner
John Clarke